particularly in LPG cyclinders, baby foods, cereals and pulses, edible oils, medicines for pregnant mothers and infants, stationary for school and college students, school uniforms, milk and low price toiletries. It also wanted withdrawal of tax on telephone services.

(b) Government is deeply concerned about the uptrend in the prices especially of those items which affect the low income families, Government is determined to see that the price of wheat, rice sugar and edible oils remains stable during the current year. In view of the comfortable foreign exchange reserves position, the Government will not hesitate to augment domestic supplies through imports. Steps have already been initiated to pursuade Industry to pass on some of the benefits of excise and customs duty reduction announced in 1995-96 Budget to the consumers.

Duty on imported Cine Film

6019. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI H. HUNUMANTHAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the film distributors recently sought relief in the countervailing duty on imported cine films, negative and positive since these items were not being manufactured in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the reaaction of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) A pre-budget representation was received from the Film Distributors council requesting for abolition of countervailing duty on cine colour negative and positive jumbo stock.

(b) The Government have not found it feasible to accede to the above mentioned request.

Amount due from Government of Maharashtra

6020. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 24 crores is due from the Government of Maharashtra under the Maharashtra Agricultural and Rural Development Relief Scheme, 1990;

(b) whether the District Cooperative Banks and the State L. D. Bank have been incurring losses on account of interest due to the delay in paying the said amount to the State Government; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in paying the amount to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The details of claims lodged under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 by Co-operative Banks in Maharashtra and the amounts released there against by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are as under: